

Colonel Frank J. Hecker House

5510 Woodward Avenue

Current Name: Charfoos & Christensen, P.C.

Local	✓	7/17/81
State	✓	2/19/58
State Marker		
National	✓	9/3/71



Colonel Frank J. Hecker House

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Historic overview:

Colonel Frank Hecker was one of Detroit's most prominent citizens in the late 1800s. His extensive military career included participation in the Civil and the Spanish-American Wars, and an appointment to the Panama Canal Commission in 1904 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Hecker was also responsible for the organization of several Midwest banks, was Detroit's Police Commissioner and was active on boards of a number of prominent organizations. Constructed from 1888-1891, the Hecker House was designed by Louis Kamper. This three-story home was fashioned after the famous Chateaux de Chenonceaux along the River Cher in France, and reminiscent of Detroit's French roots.

The Chateaux de Chenonceaux was built in 1515 by Thomas Bohier, and sold to Francois I. It is modeled after the Italian renaissance style of that time. The Chateau and gardens often hosted elite social festivities. Today the castle and gardens are a well-preserved tourist attraction.



The interior of the Hecker House is as grandiose as the exterior, complete with stained glass and precious woods and marbles. Colonel Hecker hosted high society events in his home which included guests such as Presidents McKinley and Hayes. The home was sold to the Smiley Brothers Music Company in 1947 and was the origin of the Women's Symphony and Detroit's Chamber Music Workshop. Today the Hecker House serves as law offices.

